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Approved ~~TOP SECRET~~ Release 2004/12/22 : CIA-RDP84R01033R000100240006-1

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

[REDACTED]
SP - 20/77
19 January 1977
Copy 3

25X1 MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] Legislative Counsel

FROM: National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs

SUBJECT: Materials for Senate Armed Services Committee

1. At our hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee last week, Senator Jackson asked that we supply the Committee with additional materials at a later date. He requested (a) a review of the accuracy of US estimates on Soviet strategic offensive forces over the past 10-12 years, and (b) comments on the Wohlstetter article about US estimates which appeared in Foreign Policy in 1974. The attached materials are in response to this request.

2. The thicker document is a full-scale review of the track record of estimates on Soviet strategic forces by a group of professionals assembled for that explicit purpose, headed by a retired CIA officer called back for that purpose. It covers more ground than that requested by Senator Jackson, but it is felt that his desire, on behalf of the Committee, to understand past estimative performance would be served better by this full record than by merely extracting portions narrowly fitting the exact wording of the request.

3. A detailed analysis of the estimative record over a number of years is as sensitive as an estimate itself--indeed, in some respects it is more sensitive than any single estimate. The track record study should therefore be made available to the Committee under the same security access, handling and storage restrictions as are applied to the estimates.

4. The thinner document is a commentary on the Wohlstetter critique done by a former member of the estimates staff.

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Attachments

[REDACTED]
Howard Stoertz, Jr[REDACTED] (Cy 8)
Foreign Policy Article

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